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[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

Eagle Pass.

EAGLE PASS, TEX., June 1, 1899.

SIR.—I have the honor to report that many rumors are being brought to me to the effect that smallpox is existing in epidemic form in Torreon, Mexico. Yesterday information was brought here by a man from Torreon to the effect that there are now in Torreon, to his knowledge, 350 cases of smallpox. In fact, this man told me that his reason for leaving Torreon was the smallpox epidemic.

No attempt to prevent the spread of this disease is made by the Mexican authorities, hence numerous "walking cases" are continually met with on the streets of Torreon. In order to learn the true condition of affairs, I wrote to the American consul at Torreon, but got no reply from him.

Every precaution to prevent the entrance of this disease into the United States is taken, that is, so far as our means will allow us. What is necessary is a camp of detention. People coming from smallpox and yellow fever districts are returned to Mexico and forced to remain there until sufficient time elapses to prove them not infected. All baggage is held over here and disinfected with formalin, as per instructions from the Bureau.

I am watching every bridge and ford on the Rio Grande and doing all in my power to turn people back to Mexico when they come from contaminated districts.

Yours, respectfully,

LEA HUME,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

El Paso.

EL PASO, TEX., June 3, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended June 3, 1899, no passengers arrived at this place from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

A family consisting of man, wife, and 2 children came from Tampico, Mexico. Knowing that they would be detained here, they purposely and unnecessarily lingered on their road, and proved conclusively that they left Tampico on May 18, 1899. The father of the family emphatically denied that yellow fever is epidemic at that place. Not having evidence that his baggage had been disinfected, I disinfected here and let him go on his way to Kansas City.

Very respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis in the United States.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

PENNSYLVANIA—*Philadelphia*.—During the two weeks ended June 10, 4 cases and 2 deaths were reported.